



Bits & Bytes



An information exchange for the Kentucky Department for Employment Services (DES)

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HARLAN & WHITESBURG DES HOST RADIO SHOW

Karen Middleton, Manager, and Peggy Mason, Assistant Manager, of the **Harlan DES** administrative area host a weekly radio show on **WIFX 94.3** to inform citizens in Harlan and Letcher counties of available job openings listed with their offices. The show often has guests, who have included partnering agencies, employers, community leaders, and DES personnel.

In April the guests were Plant Superintendent Darrell Goff and Engineer Archie Spangler with American Woodmark, a new company located at the Industrial Park in Hazard, KY.

Discussions touched on the history of American Woodmark and its operations, opening date, number of employees and benefit package. Spangler provided information regarding the building, equipment, and job requirements. He also explained how he became an engineer and how long he had been with the company. Goff's comments centered on how counties surrounding Perry County could benefit from the company's logging and lumber needs.

The show also promoted the job fair that was arranged and organized by the Hazard DES office. Company representatives joined DES staff April 10 through April 12, 2002 to help job seekers complete job applications and to conduct skills assessment.

As a result, a number of listeners went to Perry County to apply with American Woodmark. They heard the show and wanted to work for the company.

WIDENING OUR DOORS

Employment Specialist Jeanne Greynolds Devers with the **Central Kentucky Job Center-Georgetown** recently attended a "Widening Our Doors Train-the-Trainer" seminar. She was among 45 individuals trained statewide. The Accessibility Committee of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Advisory Team coordinated the seminars. Mary Ellen Harned of the Access Center in Louisville developed the curriculum to enhance One-Stop staff's understanding of the "universal access" principle at the core of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. The three and one-half day course provides tools and resources to prepare staff working in Kentucky's One-Stop delivery system to meet the particularized needs of customers with disabilities and other special populations.

WIA guarantees equal opportunity and non-discrimination in providing services through the One-Stop Career Center. Although applicable laws are discussed as part of the training, the primary focus is on knowledge, attitudes and practical steps that can be taken to ensure full access to programs and services.

Devers and Brad Burtner, an Employment Consultant with the Bluegrass Workforce Investment Area, plan to join forces to train local staff members. The goal is to have all one-stop staff trained within the next six months. The following topics will be covered:

- Interacting with persons with disabilities
- Welcoming and accommodating job seekers with disabilities
- Understanding employers' responsibilities
- Addressing barriers to employment for persons with disabilities, immigrants and refugees, and older adults.

DES BITS & PIECES

COVINGTON – In April the Kentucky Works Program (KWP) staff registered a 30 year-old participant. A single parent of a 12 year-old child, she was also helping to care for her siblings since her mother's heart attack. Living in a rural county, she did not have access to public transportation and did not have her own car. However, she was able to overcome her barriers to successfully complete a Group Job Search making 27 job contacts. In May she started to work for **Kroger**. Under KWP, DES staff works with the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) case managers to assist Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program recipients to obtain employment, leading to self-sufficiency.

MAYSVILLE – Employment Specialist Barbara Underwood was recently invited to attend the Licking Valley Community Action Program (LVCAP) Head Start Parents Recognition Banquet. Underwood has served for five years on the LVCAP Head Start Policy Council and the LVCAP Family Services Advisory Committee. During the banquet, Director of Head Start Toby Miller recognized and thanked the Maysville DES office for all the services it provides to the local area.

PADUCAH - Recently the Paducah Chamber Business and Education Partnership Committee meeting was held in the Paducah Career Center. The 45 attendees included representatives from area schools and colleges, private industry, local government, partner agencies, and the Chamber. The meeting was conducted by the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. DES Employer Relations Representative Gina Ryan offered a tour of the Career Center following the meeting. The group had positive comments regarding the changes and improvements that have been made under the leadership of the new Manager, Paul Friedlander. The resource room was the area of most interest to the group. The attendees were delighted

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with the computers, the access to the Internet, the Winway Resume Program, and the access to printers. The Paducah Career Center was pleased to provide the site for the meeting to develop valuable relationships with community leaders and to have the opportunity to explain the services that are available through the Center.

PRESTONSBURG – Employment Service Program Associate Glenda Hall recently learned of the long-term impact that DES had on a WIN participant. WIN was the predecessor of the Kentucky Works Program (KWP). Seventeen years ago, a young lady came to the office with a sincere desire to work and to better herself and the lives of her family. DES staff encouraged her and referred her on jobs. She was eventually placed at a well-established local business where she started at one of the company's entry-level jobs. The KWP staff recently learned that she is now Director of Human Resources with the same company and gives DES staff credit for helping her get started.

DES TIDBIT:

**"IT IS KIND OF FUN TO DO THE
IMPOSSIBLE."**

WALT DISNEY

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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